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Commission on Sustainable Development
Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management
23-27 February 1998
Agenda item 5

Adoption of the Report of the Working Group

Draft report

Chapter ___. Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management of the Commission on Sustainable Development met in New York from 23 to 27 February 1998, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/63 of 25 July 1997. The Working Group held ____ meetings (1st to ____ meetings).

2. The meeting was opened by the temporary Chairman, Ms. Marta Inés Galindo (Colombia), Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of ____ States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, the European Community and representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. (A list of participants will be included in annex I to the final report.

C. Election of officers

4. At the 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Working Group elected by acclamation, H.E. Mr. Rogatien Biaou (Benin) and Ms. JoAnne DiSano (Australia) as Co-Chairmen.

5. At the same meeting, the Co-Chairmen made introductory statements.

D. Agenda and organization of work

6. At the 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Working Group adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1998/1, and approved its organization of work. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strategic approaches to freshwater management.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

7. At the same meeting, the Working Group agreed to invite the Convention on Wetlands of International

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Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) to attend the session of the Working Group as an intergovernmental organization, with the status of observer.

E. Documentation

8. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on strategic approaches to freshwater management (E/CN.17/1998/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on strategic approaches to freshwater management, transmitting the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management (Harare, 27-30 January 1998) (E/CN.17/1998/2/Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of freshwater resources (E/CN.17/1998/2);

(d) Letter dated 11 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management, held at Harare, Zimbabwe, from 27 to 30 January 1998 (E/CN.17/1998/11);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Inter-Sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management (E/CN.17/ISWG.I/1998/L.1);

(f) Report of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development for the 1997 review of the Rio commitments (E/CN.17/1997/17/Add.1).